

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
SEPTEMBER 17, 2019**

ITEM 4

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2020 NONPOINT SOURCE GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES, AUTHORIZING STAFF TO SOLICIT AND RECOMMEND PROJECTS, AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR DESIGNEE TO AWARD AND EXECUTE FINANCE AGREEMENTS FOR THE 2020 NONPOINT SOURCE GRANT PROGRAM

DISCUSSION

The 2020 Nonpoint Source Grant Program includes funds from Clean Water Act section 319 (CWA 319) grant and the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund (TRFRF). The CWA 319 grant, awarded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), provides funding to states to implement their nonpoint source pollution control programs. A portion of these funds may be used for subawards to implement total maximum daily loads (TMDLs), watershed plans to restore water bodies impaired by nonpoint sources of pollution, and annually report the resulting pollutant load reductions. The amount that California receives from U.S. EPA each year varies, but in recent years has been around \$8,200,000, with approximately \$4,500,000 allocated for subawards. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is authorized by U.S. EPA to administer the CWA 319 grant.

The California Legislature has appropriated up to \$2,000,000 per fiscal year to the State Water Board from the TRFRF for forest restoration projects. Staff anticipates that the California Legislature will again appropriate money to the State Water Board from the TRFRF for fiscal year 2020-21 but expects the amount to be \$1,000,000. The TRFRF would supplement the 2020 Nonpoint Source Grant Program, supporting projects that implement forest management measures on forest lands to improve water quality.

State Water Board staff proposes to solicit projects for the 2020 Nonpoint Source Grant Program according to the 2020 Nonpoint Source Grant Program Guidelines (Guidelines). The Guidelines were developed by staff of the State Water Board, the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards), and U.S. EPA. The Guidelines, which include the 2020 Nonpoint Source Program Preferences, are consistent with the [2014-2020 California Nonpoint Source Program Implementation Plan](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/nps/docs/plans_policies/sip_2014to2020.pdf).

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/nps/docs/plans_policies/sip_2014to2020.pdf)

In addition to adopting these Guidelines, the resolution authorizes staff to solicit and recommend projects for funding, and authorizes the Executive Director, or designee, to award and execute finance agreements for the 2020 Nonpoint Source Grant Program, to perform all acts and to do all things necessary and convenient to implement such agreements.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board:

1. Adopt the proposed 2020 Nonpoint Source Grant Program Guidelines, and deem projects that comply with the Guidelines eligible to compete for funding from the 2020 Nonpoint Source Grant Program?
2. Authorize staff to solicit and recommend projects to the Executive Director for funding?
3. Authorize the Executive Director, or designee, to award and execute finance agreements and amendments to implement projects recommended for funding by the 2020 Nonpoint Source Grant Program, and to perform all things necessary and convenient to implement such agreements?

FISCAL IMPACT

State appropriations authorized for federal funding are expected to be sufficient to fund the recommended projects. Staff resources to conduct the solicitation and manage the selected projects are provided through a U.S. EPA grant.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

If the Review Panel recommends projects in Regional Water Board boundaries, Regional Water Board staff are responsible for assisting in project selection and managing the projects.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the State Water Board adopt the proposed resolution.